

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03496 031708Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 XMB-04

L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /078 W  
----- 107361

R 031501Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6105

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

FAA BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ROME 03496

DEPARTMENT PASS COMMERCE FOR COHEN, HALE, AND MYERS;  
EXIMBANK FOR TUTINO

FROM RCAA DWOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, XF, BEXP, APER, AMGT

SUBJ: CIVIL AIR - REGION AIRLINE REEQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. FOLLOWING ARE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT  
SALES PROGRAMS WITHIN THE REGION, GLEANED FROM ROME-BASED  
U.S. AEROSPACE REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING JAMES MC DIVITT  
(SENIOR CONSULTANT MIDDLE-EAST-BOEING) AND GEORGE POHLE  
(DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST-DOUGLAS), AND RCAA PERSONAL CONTACTS  
IN REGION.

1. /MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES (MEA)/

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PAGE 02 ROME 03496 031708Z

A. OPTION DATES ON FOURTH AND FIFTH BOEING 747-200B COMBIS

HAVE BEEN DELAYED FROM ORIGINAL FALL 1975 UNTIL JULY 1976.  
EXERCISE OF OPTIONS DEPENDENT UPON LEBANESE INTERNAL  
SECURITY SITUATION; BUT FLEET PLANNERS WITHIN AIRLINE  
ASSESS CARRIERS REQUIREMENT AT FOUR TO FIVE  
747-200B COMBIS IN SCHEDULED SERVICE IN 1977 (OR 1978).

B. AIRLINE (AFTER DECISION ON 747 OPTIONS) WILL EMBARK ON  
SERIOUS EVALUATION WIDEBODIED TRIJETS FOR INTRODUCTION INTO  
SCHEDULED SERVICE (INITIALLY 2-3 AIRCRAFT) IN 1978, WITH CON-  
TENDERS LOCKHEED-CALIFORNIA L-1011-100 TRISTAR AND MCDONNELL  
DOUGLAS DC-10-10, WITH POSSIBLY SLIGHT ADVANTAGE TO TRISTAR  
DUE DEPLOYMENT BY GULF AIR AND SAUDIA.

C. MEA GENERAL MANAGER NASR INDICATES AIRLINE TRAFFIC HOLDING  
SURPRISINGLY WELL, WITH TRAFFIC VOLUMES APPROACHING  
1974-1975 LEVELS AND ACCELERATING. FLEET PRESENTLY CONSISTS  
OF THREE BOEING 747-200B'S, TWO BOEING 707-320C'S (THIRD 707-320C  
LEASED TO SAUDIA), TWELVE BOEING 720-023B'S, AND THREE  
BOEING 720-047B'S.

2. /TRANS-MEDITERRANEAN AIRWAYS (TMA)/

A. AIRLINE'S FIRST BOEING 747-123F, HEAVILY DAMAGED IN  
ATHENS LANDING ACCIDENT EARLY DECEMBER 1975, WILL BE RETURNED  
TO SCHEDULED SERVICE MARCH 21, 1976; SECOND BOEING 747-123F,  
(PRESENTLY ON ORDER FROM AMERICAN AIRLINES) DUE FOR DELIVERY  
MAY 17, 1976 WITH DEPLOYMENT EUROPE-LEBANON-FAR EAST.

B. TRAFFIC VOLUMES HEAVY, CONSTRAINED ONLY BY CAPACITY GAP  
DUE 747-123F GROUNDING, WHICH HAS BEEN  
PARTIALLY COVERED BY INTERIM WETLEASED FLYING TIGER DC-8-63F.

3. /KUWAIT AIRWAYS/

WIDEBODIED AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION STUDIES BECOMING MORE ACTIVE,  
WITH MCDONNELL DOUGLAS INVITED TO MAKE DC-10 PRESEN-  
TATION MARCH 8. SOME INDICATIONS OF POLICY SPLIT WITHIN  
TOP MANAGEMENT, WITH CHAIRMAN FAISAL AL-FULAJI FOR EARLY WI-  
DEBODIED ACQUISITIONS AND MANAGING DIRECTOR JASSIM AL-  
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PAGE 03 ROME 03496 031708Z

MARZOOK AGAINST.

4. /ALIA ROYAL JORDANIAN/

WHILE FINANCING (UNDOUBTEDLY UAE/MAHDI TAJER) NOT QUITE  
FINALIZED, ORDER FOR TWO BOEING 747-200B COMBIS PROCEEDING  
ON TRACK, WITH DELIVERIES SET FOR OCTOBER 1976 TO PERMIT  
INITIAL DEPLOYMENT HAJ CHARTERS. BOTH AIRCRAFT, HIGH GROSS  
TAKEOFF WEIGHT VERSIONS (800,000 LBS.), WILL MOST PROBABLY  
BE POWERED BY UPRATED GENERAL ELECTRIC CF6-50E ENGINES (52,500

LBS. TAKEOFF THRUST) TO PERMIT ADEQUATE TAKEOFF PERFORMANCE  
FROM PRESENT AMMAN AIRPORT.

5. /AIR CEYLON/

SUPPORTING EARLIER REPORTING BY EMBASSY COLOMBO, INTERAVIA  
AIR LETTER (GENEVA), DATED FEBRUARY 25, INDICATES AIR CEYLON  
AND AIR SIAM HAVE SIGNED A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT,  
WITH BOTH CARRIERS PLANNING TO LEASE TWO LOCKHEED-CALIFORNIA  
L-1011-1 TRISTARS (PACIFIC SOUTHWEST-PSA?) FOR JOINT  
OPERATIONS.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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